

## Staff Senate Minutes

August 22, 2023 (2:00pm–3:30pm)

Online Via Zoom

**In-Attendance:** Jenna Otto, Ambre Plahn, Keats Chaves, Adrian Trujillo, Noah Carillo, Jason Horne, Alexis Morrison, Kennedy Schade for Keegan Gormally, Kristen Perry

**Absent:** Crystal Ross, Pam Flippo

**Guests:** Michael Ellis, Heather Brophy, Kirstie Rudich, Logan Doerfler, Wendi Mars, Sharon Price

### Approval of minutes

- June Zoom recording will be used as Minutes
- July Minutes in drive and ready for approval, minutes are approved.

### Guest Speakers

- No guest speaker

### Reports

- Committee Reports
  - Shared Governance - none
  - President's Cabinet
    - July 26th –
      - Campus Survey Policy - Moving Forward with it. Institutional Research provided this draft policy to various campus constituencies last winter including staff senate. They will move forward with the next steps of the process which include being published to the campus community for public comment.
      - The General Counsel Office is down to zero employees. The university is using an outside firm who will provide us with legal services by Miller Nash LLP
      - Dr. Kristin Latham-Scott: Mentioned students are interested in hosting a town hall discussing Affirmative Action.
      - Working on ensuring the Financial Plan is included within the Strategic Plan.

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- Any updates about the College Restructure that was discussed over the last year?
  - No updates as of yet that have come through the President's Cabinet. Keats provided an update that this is on hold for the new Provost to take on. Giving him a bit of time to get adjusted to his new role here and will hopefully be coming back to this soon.
- Google might start charging universities for Alumni emails
  - WOU provides "email for life" for anyone that graduates from WOU and uses their account at least once every five years. If they graduate and then do not use their account, then their account will be purged and removed.
  - This is not come to the attention of UCS yet. It seems that this was something someone read in an article that came from a university back East that shared their story about getting charged unexpectedly.
- August 9th -
  - EDDEI Brought up where Spanish translation should be housed under? Currently, we outsource to private firms for this service.
    - Between HR or DEI - Further Discussion will be held
    - If made into a policy, the discussion of how requests will be funneled.
    - Considering the hire of private translators for major events
  - College Tour will be recording for one full week - 1st Week of School
    - WOU is teaming with Amazon Prime who is hosting a show that will highlight "A Day in the life of a college student". There will be camera crews on campus filming our students for the show.
    - More information can be found: <https://www.amazon.com/The-College-Tour/dp/B08QMDXR7Z>
  - Enrollment numbers trending in right direction. President Peter's sent out an update recently that highlighted the many awesome things that have been happening over the last few months.

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- SEIU Negotiations are being held - Looking good for our Classified Staff
- In the past WOU has had communication with OSU about “Educating” Deferred students. OSU has been accepting students at about a 99% rate. However, they do not have enough space for that many students. So, they are placing students in a deferred status and asking them to hold off on registration for about a year. An idea came up with OSU partnering with WOU to have these students come to WOU for that one year and then they would transfer to OSU when their space becomes available. Nothing concrete has come about with his, these are just in early stages of discussion.
  - Q: If WOU did take these students, wouldn't they be considered “non-Admit” student?
    - That is a great idea and one method that would not negatively impact WOU in regard to our enrollment numbers and retention rates.
- Legal - Alexis Interview Update.
  - They are currently in the interview phase of the process and things are going well so far. They are only in phase 2 of 3 so far, so still a lot work left to do before this role will be filled.
  - Looking for a new system regarding contracts. The university wants to ensure that we are still streamlining the process to get contracts reviewed/signed and once there is a new process in place that will be shared with the campus community.
- Potential Moves
  - DEI moving into Legal Counsel space by Fall term. Their new home is now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Administration Building.
- Parking Kiosk coming to WOU
  - No details yet about where these kiosks will be located or how they will work, but they will be available for folks that do not have a parking pass to either purchase a daily parking pass, or if they will be able to obtain a free parking pass.
- Just a reminder that Public Safety will not issue tickets after 6pm.

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- University Council - Next meeting Sept.11.
- Other - Administrative Equity, Staff Connections, Scholarship, etc.
  - Staff Connections:
    - Hosting a lunch tomorrow in the Grove, so stay tuned.
    - Weekly Walks around campus
    - Meetings will be offered both in-person and virtually.
    - Meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of the month at 3:00pm
  - Scholarship Committee:
    - We have 24 applications to review before this can be closed and we can award. Ambre, Jenna, Noah and Adrian will be on the committee to review these scholarships.

### Unfinished Business

- Performance Evaluations & Training
  - On hold
- Use of Direct Appointments
  - On hold
- Search Committee processes
  - On hold
- Fundraiser Raffle
  - On Hold. Should begin talking about ways to either hold a raffle or look at new ways to conduct a fundraiser. The fundraiser helps us provide funding for scholarships. Without fundraising this year, that may mean we will not be able to offer a scholarship next academic year.

### New Business

- Executive Update

### Announcements

- Agenda item suggestions
- Kudos/Recognition



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- Staff Member of the month Barry McBeth!!! ....YAY!!!
- Kudos to Adrian who is the real winner for staff member of the month 😊
- Kudos to facilities during the heat wave for helping to get some of our buildings cooled down
- Public Comments - Anything for the good of the order?

### Adjourn

### Upcoming

- September 12th - Guest Speaker: Ashley Schaumburg and Dean Fouts will present on Conflict-of-Interest Policy.
- Next meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm